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Please add the following new claims:

In the Claims:

Please insert:

Sub B1/a
--(New) 52. A hyperlinked video broadcast system including a plurality of multiplexed video streams each having a plurality of video frames, said system comprising:

a mask generator generating a plurality of mask overlays corresponding to a plurality of regions in said plurality of video frames; and

a receiver capable of receiving viewer stream selection input identifying one of said plurality of mask overlays selected by a viewer and switching from presenting to said viewer a first one of said plurality of multiplexed video streams to presenting to said viewer a second one of said plurality of multiplexed video streams in response to said viewer stream selection input.

(New) 53. The system of claim 52 wherein said viewer stream selection input is reported to a remote location via a backchannel communications connection.

(New) 54. The system of claim 52 wherein said plurality of mask overlays comprise location and shape information of said plurality of regions in said plurality of video frames.

(New) 55. A hyperlinked video and audio broadcast system including a plurality of multiplexed video streams each having a plurality of video frames and including a plurality of multiplexed audio streams, said system comprising:

a mask generator generating a plurality of mask overlays corresponding to a plurality of regions in said plurality of video frames; and

a receiver capable of receiving viewer stream selection input identifying one of said plurality of mask overlays selected by a viewer and switching from presenting to said viewer a first one of said plurality of multiplexed audio streams to presenting to

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(New) 57. The system of claim 55 wherein said mask overlays comprise location and shape information of said plurality of regions in said plurality of video frames.

a mask presenter rendering a plurality of mask overlays corresponding to a plurality of regions in said plurality of video frames;

a receiver receiving stream selection input from a viewer specifying a first one of said plurality of input multiplexed video streams by identifying one of said plurality of mask overlays,

wherein said receiver switches from presenting to said viewer a second one of said plurality of multiplexed video streams to presenting to said viewer said first one of said plurality of multiplexed video streams in response to said viewer stream selection input.

(New) 59. The system of claim 58 wherein said viewer stream selection input is reported to a remote location via a backchannel communications connections.

~~(New) 60. The system of claim 58 wherein said mask overlays comprise location and shape information of said plurality of regions in said plurality of video frames.~~

(New) 61. A hyperlinked video stream switching data structure system having a plurality of video streams each including a plurality of video frames said system comprising:

a plurality of video stream identifiers each associated with one of said plurality of video streams;

a plurality of mask overlays corresponding to a plurality of regions in said plurality of video frames;

a first data structure element referenced by a set of said plurality of mask overlays;

a second data structure element referenced by said first data structure element, said second data structure element containing a reference to a first one of said plurality of video streams; and

a current video stream identifier corresponding to a second one of said plurality of video streams,

wherein selection of said one of said plurality of mask overlays by a viewer causes said system to make said current video stream identifier correspond to said first one of said plurality of video streams.

(New) 62. The system of claim 61 wherein said mask overlays comprise location and shape information of said plurality of regions in said plurality of video frames.

(New) 63. The system of claim 61 wherein said reference to a first one of said plurality of video streams references a third data structure element including references to an audio stream and a private data stream associated with said first one of said plurality of video streams.

(New) 64. A method for switching between multiplexed video streams in a hyperlinked video broadcast system including a plurality video streams each having a plurality of video frames, said method comprising:

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(New) 68. The method of claim 67 further comprising reporting said viewer stream selection input to a remote location input via a backchannel communications connections.

(New) 69. The method of claim 67 wherein said mask overlays comprises location and shape information of said plurality of regions in said plurality of video frames.

(New) 70. A method for switching between video streams in a hyperlinked video reception system including a plurality of input multiplexed video streams each having a plurality of video frames, said method comprising:

rendering a plurality of mask overlays corresponding to a plurality of regions in said plurality of video frames;

receiving stream selection input from a viewer specifying a first one of said plurality of input multiplexed video streams by identifying one of said plurality of mask overlays; and

switching from presenting to said viewer a second one of said plurality of multiplexed video streams to presenting to said viewer said first one of said plurality of multiplexed video streams in response to said viewer stream selection input.

(New) 71. The method of claim 70 further comprising reporting said viewer stream selection input to a remote location via a backchannel communications connections.

(New) 72. The method of claim 70 wherein said mask overlays comprises location and shape information of said plurality of regions in said plurality of video frames.

(New) 73. A method for switching between hyperlinked video streams in a hyperlinked video stream system having a plurality of video streams each including a plurality of video frames said method comprising:

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generating a plurality of video stream identifiers each associated with one of said plurality of video streams;

generating a plurality of mask overlays corresponding to a plurality of regions in said plurality of video frames;

generating a first data structure element referenced by a set of said plurality of mask overlays;

generating a second data structure element referenced by said first data structure element, said second data structure element containing a reference to a first one of said plurality of video streams;

generating a current video stream identifier corresponding to a second one of said plurality of video streams;

receiving viewer stream selection input identifying said one of said plurality of mask overlays; and

making said current video stream identifier correspond to said second one of said plurality of video streams in response to said viewer stream selection input.

(New) 74. The method of claim 73 wherein said mask overlays comprise location and shape information of said plurality of regions in said plurality of video frames.

(New) 75. The method of claim 73 wherein said reference to a first one of said plurality of video streams references a third data structure element including references to an audio stream and a private data stream associated with said first one of said plurality of video streams.--

REMARKS

Claims 1-51 were presented in this continuation application. Claims 1-51 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 52-75 have been added. Claims 52-75 remain in the present application for examination.